

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION (MHSOAC)
Thursday, July 7, 2005
1600 – 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

I. Call to Order.

Interim Executive Director Dave Dodds called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. Introduction to Meeting.

Dave Dodds described his temporary role in facilitating the meeting until a chair was chosen by Commission members. Members of the audience were told about sign-up sheets for future meeting notifications and for accessing public documents.

III. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Carmen Diaz, F. Jerome Doyle, Saul Feldman, Linford Gayle, Mary Hayashi, Patrick Henning, Jr., Karen Henry, Gary Jaeger, William Kolender, Andrew Poat, Darlene Prettyman and Darrell Steinberg.

Commissioners Chesbro, Lee, Lockyer and Ridley-Thomas were absent at roll call. Commissioner Lockyer was represented by Tricia Wynne

Commissioners Wesley Chesbro and Mark Ridley-Thomas arrived prior to Item 8 on the agenda.

Staff present: Dave Dodds, Interim Executive Director; Poppy Johal, Secretary

IV. Member Introduction.

Members present greeted other Commissioners and attendees and made introductory remarks.

V. Introduction of Temporary Support Staff.

Interim Executive Director, Dave Dodds introduced Norm Black, who was providing legal technical assistance to the Commission and explained that it was expected that the Commission will eventually have eight permanent staff, including an Executive Director. The Executive Director position is awaiting approval from control agencies. The six professional level staff positions have been created and interviews for two of these positions will be held within two weeks. Three of the professional level positions will be at the Associate Mental Health Specialist and three at the Staff Mental Health Specialist classifications.

VI. Welcome from Kimberly Belshe and Director Stephen Mayberg.

Commissioners were congratulated and welcomed by Secretary Belshe who recognized the important work of the Commission and thanked staff who participated in assisting the start-up. Director Mayberg added his thanks and administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners present. Commissioners were then asked to sign the Oath, which was collected.

VII. Legal Briefing.

Norm Black, Counsel for the Department of Mental Health reviewed aspects of the Bagley-Keen Open Meeting Act and Conflict of Interest laws that apply to the work of the Commission. Mr. Black explained that the basic concept of Conflict of Interest is that anyone involved in government and participating in making decisions should not do so if its going to effect financial interest that they have personally or that of immediate family. He pointed out the form 700, which all Commissioners should have received, is a public document and is initially sent to the Fair Political Practices Commission. Until the Commission adopts its own conflict of interest language, all financial interests are to be reported. The form should be filled out and submitted within 30 days from the date of this first meeting.

Regarding the Public Meetings Act, Mr. Black explained that whatever business the Commission is going to conduct is supposed to be done in a public meeting. There has to be notice of the meeting and a posted agenda so the public will know what business is going to be discussed. He reported that there are also facets of the law that prohibit informal, impromptu meetings. In responding to a Commissioner's question, Mr. Black clarified that this does not mean that Commission members cannot get together informally when Commission business is not being discussed, nor does it mean they cannot get together in small numbers to discuss Commission business.

Regarding the Public Records Act, Mr. Black stated that the safest bet is to assume that anything in writing or taped recordings of the meeting are all going to be part of the public record and will be provided to anyone who asks for it.

Mr. Black concluded with a recommendation that the Commission consider by-laws or procedures for how it wants to conduct business; covering things like how items are placed on the agenda, emergency meetings, etc.

VIII. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

Nominations for the position of Chair were requested by Mr. Dodds. Commissioner Hayashi nominated Commissioner Steinberg. No other nominations were received. By vote of all 14 of the Commissioners present, Darrell Steinberg was elected chair. Mr. Steinberg then assumed the position of Chair and led the remainder of the meeting. Nominations were requested for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Chesbro

nominated Commissioner Gayle, who was voted Vice Chair by all of the 14 Commissioners in attendance.

IX. Background on the Creation of Proposition 63.

After a brief recess, Vice Chair Gayle called the meeting back to order and introduced the next agenda item, which was the overview of the creation of Proposition 63 by Commissioner Steinberg and Mr. Rusty Selix, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association in California.

Commissioner Steinberg described his earlier involvements in the field of mental health services, in particular, the successes of AB34 programs. He explained that despite the initial successes, the funding available at that time did not begin to address prevention activities and new revenue sources were necessary, the effort of which resulted in the creation of Proposition 63. Commissioner Steinberg discussed the eight (8) principles to successful implementation:

- Prevention
- Outreach
- Integrated Services
- Continuum of Care
- Services that are client centered
- Cultural competency
- Employment and housing needs addressed
- Focus on outcomes

He cautioned against debating on formulas for distribution and suggested focusing on the “big picture.” He suggested the Commission focus in its early months on three (3) areas:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Focus on those who are at risk of losing everything
- Leverage the dollars to serve more people

He offered the idea of leveraging Proposition 63 monies through issuance of bonds.

He ended his presentation with his description of the primary responsibilities of the Commission:

- Advise and work with the Department, which has final authority over the expenditures on the service side.

- Authority to approve, disapprove or modify the expenditures under the prevention and innovation pot of money (25% of the resources).

- Use the Commission as a bully pulpit to learn more about the plight of people with mental illness.

Rusty Selix was then introduced.

Mr. Selix thanked the Governor, Secretary Belshe, Director Mayberg and involved legislators. He particularly acknowledged Rose King stating that much of this concept was really her idea. He noted that the number one federal expenditure in mental health is social security and that this situation is avoidable if we provided a new paradigm, which is the right help at the right time at the right place. He said that the transformation is that we don't leave people behind. He pointed out that although there has been focus on the fact that the \$700 million is only 15% of the current total, the 7% growth factor means that we may be \$2 billion in ten years. The prevention money can also save exponentially more in the later services costs. In the year 2010, he envisioned that prevention and early intervention becomes the rule and not the exception.

Commissioner Chesbro asked how the authors envisioned the Commissions role in relation to programs other than prevention and innovation. Mr. Selix responded that he saw the Commission as, in part, the official replacement for the advisory board established by AB34, and to give the Department recommendations as to how all these new program components are handled.

Commissioner Steinberg added that this is an accountability commission. He knows that the Commission and the Department will work well and closely together, but that there ought to be some creative tension.

Commissioner Diaz asked what Mr. Selix and Commissioner Steinberg felt was the role of the County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Selix responded that the Board of Supervisors will be involved in most counties and that of primary importance was the local mental health commissions.

Commissioner Feldman asked about communications between the Commission and the Department. How formal or informal will these communications be?

Commissioner Steinberg responded that he expects meetings very often in the first months and that this is a good lead in to the presentation from the Department.

X. OVERVIEW OF THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT AND SUMMARY OF ISSUES THE COMMISSION MAY WANT TO ADDRESS IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.

Carol Hood was introduced for her presentation.

Carol described the six (6) different components of the Mental Health Services Act. It is really six (6) different initiatives. Through the community planning process, the Department has distributed \$12.4 million. The efforts are staggering at the local level, with one of the larger counties having received input from 8,000 different consumers and family members.

The Community Services and Support component, according to Ms. Hood is a little over half of the money. It is in excess of \$300 million per year. She described the stakeholder process and explained that the Department has developed draft products for people to react to. Then stakeholders provide input and revisions occur. The Department is still struggling to come up with how to portray a timeframe that is helpful to people. Ms. Hood stated she thought it might be best for the Commission if she explained their priorities over the next few months. First was issuance of the planning monies.

One Commission member stated they understood that some counties had not put together a plan.

Ms. Hood responded that only one county, Alpine, has not requested planning funds, and the Department is working with them.

Next priority mentioned by Ms. Hood was the Community Services and Support, where most of the stakeholder process has focused. She mentioned the need to work with the Commission on how they want to review these plans, and that once they get any input to try and finalize the program and financial requirements by next week.

This comment led the Chair to ask about this review. Ms. Hood stated that her understanding was that Commissioners were given the documents for review.

Dr. Mayberg stated that he saw two options. Informal comment from individual Commissioners or have another meeting to organize this and approve the 50 page document.

The Chair stated that the role of the Commission would be to make a recommendation but that there are a couple of hot issues here. One is the criteria for the plan. Another is the funding formula. He suggested another meeting and it was recognized that there would need to be time for proper public meeting notice. The Chair asked for a meeting for the week of July 17th.

Commissioner Poat agreed that another meeting was needed sometime and added that he thought the Commission would need to understand all of the critical junctures for decision-making.

Commissioner Chesbro added that the set aside amount should also be discussed.

Commissioner Gayle commented that it was important not to rush into things and that more frequent meetings may be necessary.

The Chair asked that the Department get the drafts of all documents that are out there on the various components and asked that for the next meeting the Department provide the Commission with more detail in terms of projected timelines.

Mr. Dodds asked the pleasure of the Commission for seating arrangements.

Commissioner Kolender stated he favored more of a table structure to allow all Commissioners to see each other and to facilitate discussion.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Public comments were made by a total of twelve (12) persons.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception.

Minutes approved on: September 28, 2005